

In addition, the FY 2003 HRSA Grant Application has been developed and will be submitted on or before July 1, 2003 requesting \$9.7 million to fund next year's Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Program.

Dental Program

The Division of Oral Health Services is currently very active in the area of dental prevention. Tennessee has a statewide dental sealant project that provides screenings, referrals for care with follow-up, education, and dental sealants in the school setting in grades K-8. This fiscal year 40,972 children have been screened, with 15,572 having dental sealants placed on 89,428 teeth. Also 51,371 children have received dental health education. In the area of treatment, two mobile dental clinics are now operating in Middle Tennessee and Northeast Tennessee. A third mobile dental clinic is to begin providing services in West Tennessee in August. These clinics provide comprehensive dental services to elementary school-aged children. The mobile clinics park at targeted elementary schools where the children leave class to see the dentist, and return to class. It is a very efficient and cost-effective way to provide dental services and overcome the access to care issue for children.

Tennessee's Targeted Tuberculin Testing Initiative

The Tennessee Department of Health's TB Elimination Program implemented a statewide Targeted Tuberculin Testing Initiative (TTI) in March 2002. Although Tennessee's TB Elimination Program is committed to identifying and treating latent TB infection (LTBI) in all high-risk populations, the state-funded pilot project focused on testing and treating foreign-born persons (immigrants, refugees and residents from high-incidence countries) living in Tennessee. Preliminary data from March 2002 to February 2003 shows that approximately 40,538 individuals received education and individual risk assessment for TB and LTBI. Of these, 22,239 individuals were identified as having increased risk for TB infection and received tuberculin skin testing. Five cases of active TB were detected as a direct result of targeted testing activities. LTBI was diagnosed in 15.3% (3,406/22,239) of high-risk persons tested, and in 36.1% (2,166/6,004) of foreign-born persons tested. In contrast, only 1.3% (134/10,503) low-risk individuals were found to have a positive TST. Tuberculin testing programs targeting high-risk populations enable early detection of TB cases and identification of persons who would benefit from treatment of LTBI. The resulting decreased transmission of TB infection in the community will be a significant advance towards the elimination of tuberculosis.

EPSDT

The State of Tennessee is under court decree to improve the level of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSD&T) screenings. In an effort to accomplish the goal of 80%, the Bureau of TennCare required the Managed Care Organizations to contract with the local health departments to provide screenings. During FY 2001- 2002, 43,512 screenings were done in local health departments. It is projected that approximately 50,000 screenings will be done in FY 2002-2003.